



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Ashley National Forest

*Please file 5/013/004*  
Duchesne Ranger District  
PO Box 981  
Duchesne, UT 84021

File Code: 1950-1/2810

Date: September 20, 2004

Mr. Paul Baker  
Senior Reclamation Biologist  
Utah Department of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Dear Mr. Baker:

Enclosed is a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact that documents my decision to allow Shamrock Mining to extract ore from the unpatented mining claims in the Blind Stream area of the Ashley National Forest. Also enclosed is the July, 2004 Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes their proposed action and alternatives, the August 2004 Supplemental EA, and the Summary of Public Comments and the Forest Service Responses.

The Summary of Public Comments and the Forest Service Responses document should answer the questions you posed in your comment letter for this project.

As stated in the Decision Notice, I have decided to implement Alternative A – the Proposed Action. This alternative allows for the development of the mining claims by Shamrock with additional mitigation and monitoring to insure the activities take place in a manner that protects other National Forest lands and resources.

I have determined that you have standing to appeal this decision. This standing to appeal is a result of your having given us substantive comments during the previous 30-day public comment period. The appeals process and timetable is described in the Decision Notice.

If you have any questions or need additional information about this decision please contact Dave Herron (435)-781-5218 or me at (435)-781-5203.

Sincerely,

CLARK TUCKER  
District Ranger

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SEP 21 2004  
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

